[*English*]

Improvements in Working of F.C.I.

3260. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has recommended certain improvements in the working of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Govement on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). The main recommendations include suggestions for cost minimisation and consumer satisfaction, greater delegation and accountability of regional offices, effecting economy in staff and administration, improving storage facilities and their utilisation and the like for achieving better operational efficiency. These also include measures for controlling increasing trend of foodgrain losses during storage and transit and rationalising the working of labour. It has brought together findings on actual cost of FCI and viability of its Operations as compared with relevant parameters in the market. The recommendations are aimed at improving operatinal efficiency and reduction of costs.

(c) The Government constituted an Empowered Committee to examine the report. The Empowered Committee has given its recommendations which are in the process of finalisation by the Government.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Parcel Goods Handling Works

3261. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed for alloting parcelgoods handling works of railways cooperative societies vis-a-vis contractors;

(b) whether there is any provision for reservation of such contracts to Labour Cooperative Societies, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of workers cooperative societies for handling of parcels goods working on Western and Central Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The criteria for allotment of work to a Labour Cooperative Society on Railways are that it should be a registered, genuine and bonafide Cooperative Society. In accordance with Government's policy to encourage labour cooperative movement on the Railways, genuine cooperative labout contract societies of actual workers are generally considered for goods/parcels handling contracts without call of tenders and irrespective of the value of contract, subject to performance being satisfactory and rates being reasonable.

(c) Western Railway—Six

Central Railway — One.

Admission of Students in Hostels of Delhi University

3262. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students admitted in the hostels of the Delhi University every year;

(b) the number of students applied for admission into these hostels during the last

three years and the number of students provided this facility, year-wise;

(c) whether any step is being taken for the construction of more hostels in the University;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, its hostels can accommodate a total of 988 students. The position regarding the number of students who applied for admission to these hostels during the last three years and the number of students admitted to the hostels is as follows:-

Year	*No. of Applicants*	*No. Admitted*
1989-90	1517	700
1990-91	1721	769
1991-92	1728	790

(c) and (d). the University is expected to augment its hostel capcity by 396 seats during the VIII Plan.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Inadequate Training Aids in Rural Schools

3263. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural schools have inadequate training aids;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure provision of these aids in all the schools; and

(c) the grants provided for this purpose to Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The centrally sponsored scheme of Operating Blackboard interalia provides for certain essential teaching and learning material to all the primary schools in the country, including blackboards, maps, charts, a small library, toys & games equipment etc. So far 4.05 lakh primary schools comprising 3/4 of the total primary schools in the country have been covered under the scheme. The scheme will continue till completion during the 8th Plan.

(c) The central assistance so far sanctioned to Govt. of Maharashtra since the inception of the Scheme is:-

	(Rs. in Lakhs)
1987-88	545.03
1988-89	—
1989-90	788.33
1990-91	612.22
1991-92	1984.81

Computerised Reservation Offices in North Delhi

3264. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether computerised reservation offices have been opened in Delhi;